



MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor and City Council

From: Kevin Richardson, Fire Chief

Date: March 27, 2018

Reference: Texas Fire Chief Association's Lone Star Achievement Award

2030: Sense of Community and Special Place to Live

Introduction:

Presentation to the Coppell Fire Department on receiving the Texas Fire Chief Association, "Lone Star Achievement Award."

Analysis:

The Coppell Fire Department is the recipient of the Texas Fire Chiefs Association's 2018, "Lone Star Achievement Award, recognizing a Texas Fire Department for implementing an innovative and progressive program that enhances their community's fire and life safety service delivery."

During challenging times, the four cities of Coppell, Carrollton, Farmers Branch, and Addison, Texas have joined forces and implemented several regional programs. The innovative approach to combine resources has resulted in improving overall service delivery for all agencies. When combined, the Quad Cities support 16 Fire Stations and cover a population of approximately 250,000. These programs have been several years in the development and are now up and running. The Quad Cities all collaborated and contributed towards the construction of a \$2.4M joint fire training center that opened in 2017. Shared between the four cities, the facility includes a 6,854-square-foot interior training space, a six-story tower, and a four-story elevator shaft. Allowing for a robust set of drills, the training structure provides state-of-the-art fire science technology including three burn rooms for varied extinguish scenarios, opportunities to practice multi-story rescues, flexibility to conduct multiple simultaneous exercises, as well as SWAT training including repelling. The construction of this facility is a major step towards interlocal cooperation. Area

firefighters having the ability to train, and practice together makes it safer for the firefighters and provides better service to the North Texas community.

In the same vein of joining public safety efforts and resources, the North Texas Emergency Communications Center (NTECC), a joint dispatch center for Coppel, Carrollton, Addison, and Farmers Branch, was launched. The NTECC project was a concept that the Quad Cities explored for many years because of the expected benefits including expanding the pool of communications personnel available during higher call volume times and reduced long-term costs through combining resources to diminish duplication of expensive technology infrastructure and staffing. The result is a completely brand new, state-of-the-art, facility from the ground up, staffing approximately 70 FTEs.

The new NTECC facility compliments the Quad City-wide implementation of a new public safety radio system. Again, the four cities combined resources that included all the software and hardware necessary to implement a full P25 radio system. Expenditures totaled approximately \$25M. The radio project was in response to a federal mandate requiring public safety entities to bring communication systems into compliance with new digital technology by upgrading to a P25 standards-based radio system. Coppel switched from using an analog radio communications system to a suite of all-new digital radio systems. The P25 system is an effort to enable public safety organizations to communicate with other agencies and mutual aid response teams during emergencies. Automatic Aid Agreements are now in place with seamless call and dispatch of resources between the cities.

Legal Review:

Agenda item did not require legal review.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact for this agenda item.

Recommendation:

The Fire Department recommends that they be recognized for receiving the Texas Fire Chiefs Association, "Lone Star Achievement Award," for their innovative regional partnerships; Joint Fire Training Facility, Joint Fire/EMS Dispatch, Combined P25 Digital Radio System.